

potential commercial and economic benefits and effects of the project; and

"(2) in the case of an annual progress report, includes a project plan for the subsequent year.

"SEC. 204. MARINE MINERAL RESEARCH CENTERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate 3 centers for marine mineral research and related activities.

"(b) CONCENTRATION.—One center shall concentrate primarily on research in the continental shelf regions of the United States, 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in deep seabed and near-shore environments of islands, and 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in arctic and cold water regions.

"(c) CRITERIA.—In designating a center under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to a university that—

"(1) administers a federally funded center for marine minerals research;

"(2) matriculates students for advanced degrees in marine geological sciences, non-energy natural resources, and related fields of science and engineering;

"(3) is a United States university with established programs and facilities that primarily focus on marine mineral resources;

"(4) has engaged in collaboration and co-operation with industry, governmental agencies, and other universities in the field of marine mineral resources;

"(5) has demonstrated significant engineering, development, and design experience in two or more of the following areas;

"(A) seabed exploration systems;

"(B) marine mining systems; and

"(C) marine mineral processing systems; and

"(6) has been designated by the Secretary as a State Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute.

"(d) CENTER ACTIVITIES.—A center shall—

"(1) provide technical assistance to the Secretary concerning marine mineral resources;

"(2) advise the Secretary on pertinent international activities in marine mineral resources development;

"(3) engage in research, training, and education transfer associated with the characterization and utilization of marine mineral resources; and

"(4) promote the efficient identification, assessment, exploration, and management of marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner.

"(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In distributing funds to the centers designated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, allocate an equal amount to each center.

"(f) LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section during a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with administration of the program authorized by this section.

"(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

"SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRRIGATION PROJECT CONTRACT EXTENSION ACT OF 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1649) to extend contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts in Kansas and Nebraska, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1649

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall extend the water service contracts for the following projects, entered into by the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (e) of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h) and section 9(c) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665), for a period of 4 additional years after the dates on which each of the contracts, respectively, would expire but for this section:

(1) The Bostwick Unit (Kansas portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Republic County, Jewell County, and Cloud County, Kansas.

(2) The Bostwick Unit (Nebraska portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Harlan County, Franklin County, Webster County, and Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

(3) The Farwell Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Act of August 3, 1956 (70 Stat. 975, chapter 923), situated in Howard County, Sherman County, and Valley County, Nebraska.

(4) The Frenchman-Cambridge Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665) as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Chase County, Frontier County, Hitchcock County, Furnas County, Red Willow County, and Harlan County, Nebraska.

(5) The Frenchman Valley Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Hayes County and Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

(6) The Kirwin Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Phillips County, Smith County, and Osborne County, Kansas.

(7) The Sargent Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), situated in Blaine County, Custer County, and Valley County, Nebraska.

(8) The Webster Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Rooks County and Osborne County, Kansas.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2183) to make technical corrections to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2183.

This bill would allow States, like New Mexico, that have a growing number of people who qualify for food stamps or are unemployed access to the contingency fund monies that were included in the recently enacted welfare reform bill.

This is merely a technical correction which is necessary for many States which will not be able to reform welfare programs until their State legislatures meet again next year, but as of October 1 are operating under limited block grants funding.

In New Mexico, our population is growing at such a rapid pace that continuing our current welfare program under the block grant system will lead to a funding shortfall.

Inadequate block grant funding would cause States like New Mexico to make across-the-board cuts in welfare payments to families in need.

This legislation would allow States like New Mexico to tap into the welfare contingency fund and avoid financial hardships during the transition to a new welfare program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON CERTAIN FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS FOR 1997.—Section 116(b)(1)(B)(i)(II) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 is amended—